

## LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANS

**Water:** Alta Lake

**Management Type:** Trout Only

**Location:** Two miles southwest of Pateros, Washington, Sections 10 and 15, T29N, R23E in Okanogan County.

**Size:** 187 acres, 69 feet maximum depth, 7,293 acre feet

**Water Source:** Subsurface flow

**Outflow:** None

**Management History:** Since its inception, Alta Lake has been managed as a production fishery, owing to its large size, excellent productivity, and close proximity to a state park and resort. Rainbow trout have been the predominant species planted into the lake.

Due to the illegal planting of spiny ray fishes, plants of catchable rainbows have been on the increase in recent years to try and counteract species competition and provide for a longer lasting trout fishery. Based on opening day creel data since 2005, the average size of the yearling rainbows and catch rates have decreased (Table 1).

Table 1. Catch rates and average yearling trout size for Alta Lake 2005-2011

Year	# Fish/angler	Average yearling trout size (inches)
2005	3.9	10-11
2006	3.4	10-11
2007	3.4	10-11
2008	2.3	10-11
2009	1.5	9-10
2010	2.6	9-10
2011	2.0	9-10

### **Current Management Objectives**

Continue to manage this lake for a trout only fishery. Provide at least 2-3 yearling and one carryover rainbow trout per angler trip for up to 5,000 angler trips per season.

**Fishery Objectives:** Continue to plant fingerling rainbow trout to provide a 10-12 inch yearling rainbow with a catch rate of 3-4 fish per angler day, including one 2+ carryover rainbow 14-15 inches.

**Angler use objective (# angler days):** Season – 5,000 +

**Stocking Objectives:** Fingerling rainbow trout stocked at between 200 and 250 fish per acre and at 75 fish per pound annually during April/May. Five hundred larger 1-2 pound rainbows stocked to provide added opportunity.

**Management Strategy:**

- Check yearling growth; should be about 11 inches, adjust stocking rate as necessary.
- Expect 80% loss of yearling fish by end of season due to harvest and hooking mortality.
- Maintain about 10-15 percent of the catch at age 2+ years old, 14-15 inch fish.
- Monitor angling activity and catch rates annually at opening day surveys.
- Monitor all fish species periodically by electrofishing or netting.
- Control spiny-ray species with rotenone when trout survival is inadequate